

Hi, my name is __ (Your Name) ____, and I live in ____ (Town) ____. I'm calling today to urge you to support federal funding for Connecticut's libraries.

An Executive order is effectively dismantling the **Institute for Museum and Library Services**, the federal agency established by law that supports libraries and museums across the country. This order seeks to **eliminate all funding for libraries in the future**. IMLS staff have been placed on leave, and the **Library Services and Technology Act, or LSTA, grant to Connecticut has been cancelled**.

This loss of \$2.1 million in annual support provided by LSTA will be devastating for libraries in Connecticut. Here's how this will affect our community members:

(Choose one or all of these talking points. Illustrate with examples of how this will impact your community members)

- LSTA funds support the over 10,000 Connecticut residents who are blind or visually impaired and receive reading material in braille and audio through the **Connecticut Library for Accessible books**. Without this funding, access to a broad range of reading material in a variety of formats will be lost.
- LSTA funds support the staffing that provides the **Summer Enrichment programs** at public libraries throughout the State. We know that students lose a significant amount of knowledge in reading and math over the summer months. Reading and engagement programs at public libraries can keep young brains active and prevent the 'summer slide.'
- LSTA funds support the **inter-library loan delivery service** at every public library across the State. This equalizes access to library materials ensuring that residents of distressed municipalities have just as much access to library materials as those in wealthier communities.
- LSTA funds support the staff of the Connecticut State Library that provide crucial services to both our libraries and our residents. The staff support access to statewide databases and save Connecticut taxpayers millions of dollars through collective purchasing. State Universities and Colleges and their students benefit from having access to world class nursing and health databases, saving our state universities thousands of dollars from having to pay for them each individually, and ensuring students have access to the latest scientific research. School libraries, which cannot afford to buy reading, science and social studies databases on their own, benefit from the shared purchasing to teach their students research and citation skills crucial for continuing education in college and beyond.

As a resident of Connecticut, I ask you to support the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and continue federal funding for Connecticut libraries.